

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 27 August 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can also be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and also subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other news readers, please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

It is with great sorrow that the Council of the SARL announces the passing away of Annie van der Merwe, ZS1AZ. Annie for years was the SARL. She served on Council as Secretary for several decades and with Koos, ZS1AW, ran the SARL Head Office on a voluntary basis. They travelled daily by train from Plumstead to the City. To the family and friends we extend our sympathy and condolences.

As a tribute to Annie and Koos, the SARL would like to record their history and contribution to Amateur Radio and invite radio amateurs who worked with them in the Cape Office, and who have fond memories of the couple, to send in their stories. Please mail your contributions to armi@sarl.org.za. Please include your contact details.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

GET UP TO DATE WITH THE ZU LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND PLC TESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

OVER 60, RETIRED AND FEELING THE PINCH?

CONTEST NEWS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

GET UP TO DATE WITH THE ZU LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND PLC TESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

SARL President Graham Hartlett will discuss more details about the new ZU syllabus and examination during the President's Net this Sunday (27 August 2006). It starts at 19:00.

The guest on the INTECNET, starting at 20:00, is Eric Winter, Chairman of the SA National Committee of CISPR. Eric has been tasked to draft a proposal, for consideration by the ICASA Council, to establish the interference risk posed by PLC. It is intended that this procedure will be observed by, among others, SARL, SANAS and ICASA.

In order to update yourself regarding developments etc. in PLC, visit the SARL webpages at www.sarl.org.za for examples of PLC and reports.

Clubs wishing to connect their repeaters are requested to send a mail to armi@sarl.org.za with details of the repeater and the telephone number to be connected to the conference bridge before noon today.

OVER 60, RETIRED AND FEELING THE PINCH?

In last week's SARL News, the Council of the SARL announced that a member over 60 and retired and who has 5 years unbroken membership of the SARL may apply for senior membership status at a reduced fee.

The news items did not state that the new arrangement is effective from 20 August and is not back dated. If you have already paid for this year, the arrangement will only affect you from the next financial year.

Automatic change from member to senior member will however remain at 65. Members who qualify and wish to change their membership status should send a request to admin@sarl.org.za for consideration. The senior member fee for the current year is R230.

IN TECHNOLOGY THIS WEEK: FRENCH AMATEURS BOUNCE LASER SIGNALS OFF A RAIN CLOUD

That Amateur Radio is a hobby with variety and challenge was illustrated this week when two French radio amateurs made a one way contact over a distance of 40 km scattering laser signals from rain clouds. The flash pulses were at times 12 dB above the noise at 40 km which seem to indicate that under the right conditions a distance of 150 km could be covered.

Laser communication systems are wireless connections through the atmosphere. They work similarly to fibre optic links, except that the beam is transmitted through free space. While generally speaking the transmitter and receiver must require line-of-sight conditions, they have the benefit of eliminating the need for broadcast rights and buried cables. Laser communication systems can be easily deployed since they are inexpensive, small, low power and do not require any radio interference studies. The carrier used for the transmission signal is typically generated by a laser diode. Two parallel beams are needed, one for transmission and one for reception.

Laser communication have been a hot topic lately, as solutions for how to satisfy ever increasing bandwidth needs are in high demand. Some have suggested that bandwidth could be distributed in neighbourhoods by putting laser communication systems on top of homes and pointing them towards a common transceiver

with a fast link to the Internet. With possible transmit speeds of up to a gigabit per second, this is an exciting area. Other applications for this technology include temporary connectivity needs (e.g. sporting events, disaster scenes, or conventions), or space based communications.

The French team proved that laser signals can be scattered from clouds thus proving that the notion that laser communication can only be line of sight, is wrong.

CONTEST NEWS

SARL HF CW CONTEST

The SARL HF CW Contest is on the air this afternoon starting at 15:00 CAT and ending at 18:00 CAT with activity on 20, 40 and 80 metres. The exchange is a RST report and a serial number. The rules are available in the 2006 SARL Contest Manual as well as HF Happenings 213.

IARU REGION 1 HF SSB FIELD DAY

You still have one week to arrange your field day station for the IARU Region 1 HF SSB Field Day, which will be on the air from 13:00 UTC on Saturday 2 September until 13:00 UTC on Sunday 3 September. The complete rules for this annual event can be found in the 2006 Contest Manual.

INTERCLUB DAY AT SECUNDA

Secunda club invites surrounding clubs and all interested persons to an open day on Saturday 2 September. Proceedings will start at 12:30 for 13:00 and will include displays of new radios and GPS's, short presentations on APRS, voice over IP and SOTA and a flea market / boot sale. Hotdogs, soup, coffee, tea and cold drinks will be on sale. One lucky radio amateur will take a hand-held home. All this will happen on the terrain of Jantar Computer Services, Richterstraat 29, Trichardt. Talk in will be on 145,712.5 MHz and 438,950 MHz. For more information or to book your table, contact Elize at 084 240 4719 or zs6vwd@telkomsa.net.

WOLKBERG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S NEW COMMITTEE

At the AGM of the Wolkberg Amateur Radio Club held on 22 July 2006 the following members were elected to their new committee:

Chairman Faan Hattingh, ZS6BHE; Vice chairman Danie van Zyl, ZS6DVZ; Secretary Paul Smit, ZS6NK; Treasurer Maria Thom, ZR6MST; Repeaters Mike Thom, ZS6BBD; Member Willem Badenhorst, ZS6WAB.

Thanks to the retiring committee members strength to the new committee.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from unsettled to

active levels on 27 and 28 August. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 15.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of weak 20 m openings towards the East from about 07:00 till 10:00 CAT and 40 m from 18:00 till 22:00. From about 16:00, 20 m may open towards Europe. Conditions are going to be very challenging towards the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz during the hours of darkness.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information, especially with the SARL HF CW contest in mind.

DIARY OF EVENTS This afternoon 27 August - SARL HF CW Contest; 2 September - IARU Region 1 HF SSB field day; 2 September - Interclub day at Secunda; 2 September - West Rand Club Flea Market; 14 September - Closing date for entries for the October RAE; 7 October - East Rand Flea market; 19 October - End of year RAE.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League which was compiled by Gustav ZS6BWN.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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